The Clarion Call

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Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

From The Department Commander

Brothers,

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful summer. As we head into the fall, I encourage you to be active in your communities, hold in-person Camp meetings, and recruit new members. I look forward to seeing each Camp in this Department grow in membership and to recognizing this at our next Department Encampment with the PDC Stuart H. Chambers Award for Camp Recruiting.

At National Encampment, two of our Past Department Commanders were elected to National Office. Please join me in congratulating Brother Kevin Tucker for his election to Senior Vice Commander in Chief and Brother Daniel Murray, dual member from the Department of New Hampshire for his election to Junior Vice Commander in Chief!

When you schedule your Camp meetings, please consider inviting me to attend. My personal goal is to attend at least one meeting of every Camp in the Department.

I encourage you to attend our annual trip to Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is our event. The SUVCW plans for, organizes, and pays for the parade as well as the other ceremonies at the cemetery and the wreath laying in Zeigler's Grove. SUVCW Brothers from all over the county participate in this event and it is a very enjoyable weekend full of Fraternity. This is a family-friendly event so I encourage you to bring your wife, children, grandchildren, or whoever you would like to accompany you.

Our Department pays for the coach bus that takes us to Gettysburg and in recent years, it has not been full, so we have plenty of room for more.

The information about the Gettysburg trip is in this edition of *The Clarion Call*. For me, the two things I enjoy most about the Gettysburg weekend are seeing my many SUVCW brothers from around the country and marching in the Remembrance Day parade. Further down in this *Clarion Call* will be all of the Gettysburg information as well as a list of events going on in Gettysburg that weekend. Please make every attempt to join us. For you Brothers that have gone in the past, please join us again this year!

Brothers, thank you again for allowing me to serve you as your Department Commander. Let's all work together to grow and improve this order for future generations.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rod

2024 National Encampment

The Department of Massachusetts had an outstanding National Encampment at the Campbell House in Lexington, KY, from Thursday, August 1st through 4th, with PDC Kevin Tucker, elected as the Senior Vice Commander in Chief and dual member Daniel Murray, PDC elected as the Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

Brother Murray was also recognized with a Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star for his years of outstanding service to the order. This is the highest award an individual Brother can receive from the SUVCW. Huzzah for Brother Dan!

Col Robert Gould Shaw Camp No. 54 was selected by Commander in Chief Peter Hritsko for the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award for the most outstanding Camp within the Order during his term of office. The award was accepted by our Department Commander, Roderick Fraser, Past Camp Commander of Camp 54. Congratulations to Camp 54!

A resolution that our Department put forth to change the policy on the Memorials Grant Fund to include GAR and SUVCW charters and other important papers, and furniture was voted down. The opposition seemed to be about the inclusion of furniture in the wording. The Department leadership plans to bring this up again at the next National Encampment and narrow the scope of the wording.

During an Encampment business session, an impromptu appeal was made by a local charity, the Christian Appalachian Project, for donations to help fight poverty in the local region. As always, our Brothers did the right thing! A hat was passed and the 200 Brothers donated over $1000. Our order's principle of Charity was in full force!

The Encampment voted to modify its dress code for Brothers attending National Encampment business sessions. Going forward, Brothers must wear a jacket and tie or Civil War era uniform while attending business sessions.

Brother Kevin Martin of the Department of the Chesapeake was elected Commander-in-Chief. Interestingly, Brother Martin's wife, Rosemary, was elected as National President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, marking this as the first time a husband and wife have served concurrently since 2004, when Brother Steve Michaels and his wife Danielle served.

There was also an encampment tour which was in two parts. The first part was a visit to the Lexington Brewery and Distillery and the second part was a tour of the Camp Nelson National Monument.

Lexington Brewery and Distillery began over 100 years ago as a brewery and the current owner, a native of Ireland, added the distillery. It is housed partly in historic buildings and the brewing and distilling

process is very modern. The tour included tastings of beer and whiskey. There was a lot of interesting facts to learn. The process of brewing and distilling begins in the same manner with grains and water making mash. The difference between lagers and ales is the temperature at which fermentation takes place. There was a display of old English names for the various barrels used like hogshead, firkin and butt, hence the term buttload. Not as well-known as the more prolific distillers in the area Lexington Brewery and Distillery put on a great tour and the guides were very knowledgeable.

Camp Nelson National Monument was initially a state supported park run by volunteers and only recently came into the National Park Service. Originally started as a logistics center and hospital early in the war, it expanded into thousands of acres with hundreds of buildings and even its own reservoir that took water from a nearby river and then fed through pipes, many of them lead, by gravity to the various buildings and stables. By 1863 Camp Nelson became a training ground for thousands of African Americas seeking to serve in the US Colored Troops. Many hundreds of refugees from the fighting sought to live there as well. Though only a fraction of the ground is now preserved there is a reproduction of a barracks with military paraphernalia and biographies of various soldiers who served there. Much archeological research has been done as well. The staff were very complimentary of their volunteer predecessors. One of them mentioned that because his own ancestry is so obviously not seen as part of the Civil War he is often asked how he became so interested. He replies that his ancestors served in the South only South Vietnam! There is one historic original home visible but not yet suitable for touring. The gift shop was well stocked especially with books on local history.

The Encampment was concluded with a fine banquet at the Campbell House to outgoing Commander in Chief Peter Hritsko and outgoing Auxiliary National President Sue Freshley.

The Department of KY did an outstanding job organizing and executing this Encampment and deserve our thanks. They set the bar for next year.

25th Annual Remembrance Day Weekend Trip, Nov. 14 – 17, 2024

The Department of Massachusetts will be conducting its 25th Annual Department of Massachusetts Remembrance Day Weekend Trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, From Thursday morning, November 14th, returning on Sunday evening, November 17th, 2024.

This year, along with free parking in Woburn and Sturbridge, MA, roundtrip motor coach transportation, and three nights lodging, the trip will include a Friday visit to the new Adams County Historical Society, a tour of both the Shriver House Museum and the Jennie Wade House & Gift Shop, lunch and admission to the "Beyond the Battle" Museum.

The complete trip cost is $385.00 per person, double occupancy.

On Saturday, November 16th, activities include:

- Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast at the Eisenhower Hotel for SVR members.
- Ceremony of Remembrance at the Albert Woolson Memorial on the Gettysburg Battlefield.
- 68th Annual Remembrance Day Parade.
- Civil War Ball to benefit the Gettysburg National Military Park.

DEPARTURE: The trip departs from NuPath, Inc, 147 New Boston Street, Woburn, MA 01801 at 8:00 AM on Thursday, November 14, 2024, followed by a pickup at Old Sturbridge Village parking lot in Sturbridge, MA 01566.

Passengers will be traveling to Gettysburg aboard a comfortable, modern motor coach, and will arrive in Gettysburg around dinnertime. While in Gettysburg, we will be lodging at the Quality Inn on Steinwehr Avenue, next to the "Pickett's Charge" area of the Gettysburg battlefield. Continental breakfast each morning included.

GETTYSBURG TOUR: On Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, we will depart the Quality Inn at 8:30 AM and travel to the new Adams County Historical Society facility. It includes a tour of both the Shriver House museum and the Jennie Wade House & Gift Shop. Tour includes a boxed lunch indoors, overlooking the battlefield, and admission to the Beyond the Battle Museum. (Duration: including lunch : 9 AM. to 2:30 PM).

REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES: On Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, there will be a Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast in the morning for those SVR members that have signed up. Bus departs the Quality Inn at 7AM for travel to the Eisenhower Hotel. Returns at 9AM.

The Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Annual Ceremony of Remembrance will be held at the Albert Woolson Monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield at 11 AM.

At 1 PM, the 68th Annual Remembrance Day Parade steps off from Lefever Street and marches up Baltimore Street to Steinwehr Avenue, past the Quality Inn and ends at the Gettysburg Battlefield. Those wishing to march must be dressed in Civil War era uniform or civilian clothing or business attire with Membership badge affixed and proper footwear, (shoes only, no sneakers, sandals).

From 8 PM until Midnight, the SUVCW will be holding its Annual Civil War Ball at the Eisenhower Inn. Tickets are $20 in advance or $25 at the door, (details on the SUVCW web site at https://suvcw.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/civilwarball-2024.pdf).

RETURN: We will be departing Gettysburg for home at 11:00 AM on Sunday morning. We expect to arrive back in Sturbridge at around 7:00 PM, and in Woburn at around 8:00 PM.

25th Annual Remembrance Day Weekend Trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Nov. 14 – 17, 2024

RESERVATION

Complete trip includes:

- Round trip motor coach transportation.
- Tour of the new Adams County Historical Society facility. It includes a tour of both the Shriver House museum and the Jennie Wade House & Gift Shop. A boxed lunch indoors overlooking the battlefield and admission to the Beyond the Battle Museum. Duration: including boxed lunch: 9 AM to 2:30 PM.. (No other meals are included in the trip.)
- Three nights (per person, double occupancy) at the Quality Inn on Steinwehr Avenue in Gettysburg, including a free continental breakfast daily
- Free parking at Woburn or Sturbridge for the duration of the trip.

PRE-REGISTRATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State ____ Zip code _____

Telephone No. _____ Email_____

TOTAL PAYMENT(S) ENCLOSED

Non-refundable Deposit $100.00 per person (required by October 18th): $_____

Or Complete Trip Cost at $385.00 per person, double occupancy: $_____

Grand Total enclosed $_____

Balance Due (by November 6th, 2024) $_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “DEPT OF MA SUVCW” AND MAIL TO:
Daniel Murray,
40 Lake Road
Brentwood, NH 03833-6206

If parking: make, model, license plate number and state: _____

Location you’ll be parked (Woburn or Sturbridge) _____

Assorted Activities During Gettysburg Remembrance Day Weekend

Fife & Drum Jam Session
Date: Friday, November 15
Time: Usually at dusk
Location: In front of Dobbins House Tavern, 89 Steinwehr Ave, Gettysburg
Fifers and drummers from around the country gather to play authentic civil war tunes. Free and open to the public. Come watch and listen!

Masonic Service at the Friend to Friend Masonic Monument
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Location: Gettysburg Cemetery Annex on Steinwehr Avenue
A small ceremony to which all Masons are invited to attend, with a requirement that they are dressed in military clothing (Confederate or Union). Others are invited to observe, but may not take part in the Masonic photograph.

Wreath laying at the Woolson Monument
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: 11:00 A.M.
Location: The monument to Albert Woolson is south of Gettysburg on the east side of Hancock Avenue, about 75 yards north of the Brian farmhouse
Albert Woolson was the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic. A brief wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Albert Woolson GAR Memorial.

GAR Procession to Soldiers National Monument
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: 11:00 A.M. (approximate)
Location: Gettysburg National Cemetery
Reenactors portraying the GAR, including fife & drum musicians, march in a solemn procession through the cemetery to the Soldiers National Monument.

68th Annual Remembrance Day Parade
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: Parade forms up at 12 and step-off is at 1 pm
Location: Lefevre Street to West Middle Street to Baltimore Street to Stienwehr Avenue
March in the Parade or just view the spectacular procession.

Fife & Drum Jam Session
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: Shortly after the parade ends
Location: O'Rorke's Pub, 44 Steinwehr Ave, Gettysburg (back patio)
Fifers and drummers from around the country gather to play authentic civil war tunes. Free and open to the public. Come watch and listen!

Remembrance Day Illumination
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: 5:30 - 9:30 P.M.
Location: Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg
A luminary candle is lit on each grave of the 3512 soldiers buried in the cemetery and each soldier's name is read aloud.
This event is free and open to the public

David Wills House Museum
Date: Friday - Sunday
Time: 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Location: 8 Lincoln Square, Gettysburg
It's best known as the house where President Abraham Lincoln stayed prior to delivering the *Gettysburg Address*. However, the home of attorney David Wills also served as a center for compassion and inspiration in the days and months following the Battle of Gettysburg. Inside, Wills managed the immense task of providing proper burials for the fallen soldiers and began planning for the national cemetery. On the eve of the cemetery dedication, President Lincoln spent the night in the Wills' home while adding the finishing touches to his inspirational address. With the bedroom where Lincoln slept restored to its 1863 appearance, today's David Wills House features a seven-gallery interactive museum relating the story of Wills, Lincoln's visit and the Gettysburg Address.
Free and open to the public

Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital
Date: Saturday, November 16th
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Location: 30 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg
The live performance, Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital, shares the authentic history of how Christ Lutheran Church was used as a Civil War hospital during and after the Battle of Gettysburg.
A typical Songs and Stories evening begins at 7:30 p.m. with music on the front church steps (weather permitting) followed by the main program in the historic church at 8:00 p.m. in the same sanctuary that served as a sanctuary for the wounded. Each performance includes the sharing of first personal accounts from soldiers and nurses about Christ Lutheran hospital, Civil War poetry by Walt Whitman (himself a Civil War nurse), passages from Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, and Civil War–era music by well-known local musicians.
This program is free and open to the public; goodwill donations are accepted and appreciated.

Jeffry Shaara book signing
Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to8:00 P.M.
Location: Lord Nelson's Gallery, 17 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg

Follow Up on Placing of Wreaths Article

In the last edition of *The Clarion Call* there was an article on the placing of two wreaths by the Department of Massachusetts at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. The first wreath was placed at the Copenhagen Lot. This lot is famous for the statue of a winged angel with a trumpet placed in honor of a young woman of the family. The second wreath was placed at the cenotaph for the US Exploring Expedition on Central Avenue. The expedition explored the West coast of the United States in the mid-1840s before continuing on to Pacific Islands where two members were killed by natives. Two other members were lost at sea rounding Cape Horn.

There was some question at the time of the article as to why the Department of Massachusetts had a tradition of placing these wreaths each year. The mystery has been solved.

Regarding the wreaths placed at Mount Auburn every Memorial Day weekend there was an officer's meeting to discuss these requirements and Brother Kevin Tucker recounted that an investigation had been made some years ago by Past Department Commander and past Commander in Chief Perley Mellor. The Secretary searched the archive of Proceedings of the Department's Annual Encampments and found the report in the 2010 Proceedings.

This report concluded that the Coppenhagen Trust Fund donation stipulated that income from the fund be used for relief work and for the decoration of graves of veterans at Mount Auburn Cemetery or at a Civil War Memorial within the cemetery where allowed by the cemetery's board of trustees.

Regarding the placement of wreaths at the USN Explorers monument at Hyacinth Path Lot 814. The funds for this wreath come from the Margaretha Myers Trust Fund and stipulate they be used for the maintenance of Lot 814 and to place decorations at veteran's graves or a Civil War Memorial where allowed by the cemetery's board of trustees.

The same report also stipulates that the Charles F. Ellis Trust Fund be used for charitable, benevolent, educational and patriotic work in the City of Chelsea, Massachusetts and the Department shall conduct these works at least annually at the Soldiers Home in Chelsea, (now the Massachusetts Veterans Home.) The Department holds various programs and the annual Christmas party at the Veterans Home.

The George C. Marshall Trust Fund stipulates that the income generated shall be given over to camps in Worcester for charitable, benevolent, educational or patriotic works. Camp 25 of Worcester places wreaths at four grave sites in two cemeteries and a wreath at the Water Ceremony in Worcester every year on Memorial Day weekend.

The Robert and Ethel Wood Trust Fund stipulates that the funds be used for general purposes, and it was their desire to have a wreath placed on the graves of Robert and Ethel Wood at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester every December before Christmas. This desire has run afoul of Covid restrictions in the last few years, but we intend to see it renewed.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John Dupre'
Secretary Treasurer
Department of Massachusetts
SUVCW

Promote the Order! Enlist in the Sons of Veterans Reserve

When the Sons of Veterans was created in 1881, many of the Sons of Veterans Camps formed reserve military units, which volunteered their services during the Spanish - American War, World War I, and with the National Guard.

These units were known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, (SVR). Up until World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component for National Guard units.

Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Military Districts were established by geographical regions across the country.

The First Military District, SVR includes all SVR units in the Departments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. As part of its ceremonial and commemorative purpose, the First Military District, SVR participates in the following activities:

- Participates in the many ceremonial and commemorative Civil War observances and events throughout the country, including headstone and monument rededications.
- Marches in parades representing the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to the public.
- Participates in the annual ceremonial observance of Memorial Day at the Veterans Administration National Cemetery in Bourne, Massachusetts.
- Participates in the annual ceremonial observance of Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- Participates in the annual ceremonial observance of Lincoln's Death day in Springfield, Illinois.
- Acts as Ceremonial Honor Guard at National Encampments of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Brothers in Good Standing of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are automatically qualified to join the Sons of Veterans Reserve.
Applications can be obtained at https://suvcw-svr.org/forms/mem-app.pdf.
Annual dues are $4 per year.
Members wear a special SVR Membership Medal.
Brothers are encouraged to procure Union Civil War uniforms to wear at public events. These can be purchased at various sutlers and suppliers, with some complete uniforms available for under $175, (https://www.ccsutlery.com/store/us-uniform-special-budget.html).

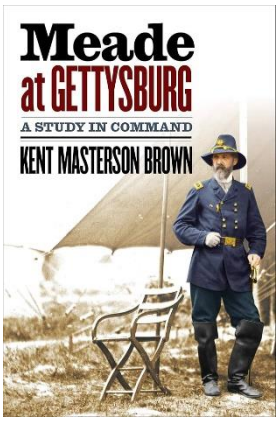
I hope you will join the Sons of Veterans Reserve to help in promoting the Order through public events. Feel free to contact me with any questions at ktsuv@outlook.com.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Major Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
Commander
First Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve

Book Review Column

As Editor of *The Clarion Call* I have taken the liberty to add a new regular column to our newsletter in the form of a brief book review. The purpose of this column is to encourage further research into Civil War history. My hope is to include both new books as well as old favorites worth rereading.

Meade at Gettysburg by Kent Masterson Brown



Kent Masterson Brown's *Meade at Gettysburg* offers a fresh and deeply researched account of General George G. Meade's leadership during the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg. The book sheds light on Meade's strategic decisions, addressing the commonly held belief that he was overly cautious or merely fortunate. Brown meticulously examines the days leading up to the battle, Meade's effective coordination of the Union Army, and the aftermath, portraying Meade as a capable and decisive leader who played a critical role in the Union victory.

When Meade first received his orders on Sunday, 28 June at 3:00 A.M. from Lt. Colonel James Hardie, he thought he was either being relieved of command or being placed under arrest. Instead, the document Hardie gave to Meade said in part:

> *General,*
>
> *You will receive with this order of the President placing you in command of the Army of the Potomac. Considering the circumstances, no one ever received a more important command; and I cannot doubt that you will fully justify the confidence which the government has reposed in you.*

The letter went on to explain his orders and authority, and was signed by H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief.

The book goes on to describe the swiftly moving events that followed the change of command. The sheer volume of strategic decisions that Meade somehow knew he needed to make and did make in the coming hours and days boggles the mind—especially from a leadership perspective. His forethought, strategic planning, decision making, and follow through should have placed Meade near the top of a list of great American leaders. But somehow, his role leading up to and during the Battle of Gettysburg has too often been marginalized, while his actions after the battle have been criticized as being overly cautious or indecisive. Brown is able to show why these perceptions are erroneous.

Author of *To Antietam Creek,* D. Scott Hartwig points out just how effective the efforts have been to marginalize Geroge Meade's role in the Union victory at Gettysburg. Hartwig says that Mead had

grumbled to his wife on December 7, 1863, “I suppose after awhile it will be discovered I was not at Gettysburg at all.” Hartwig states that Brown has firmly and convincingly restored Mead’s centrality to that victory.

Brown’s narrative while scholarly, is easy to read, and it is backed by detailed maps and primary sources. He presents Meade not as the hesitant commander many remember but as a general who skillfully managed a chaotic and desperate situation. The book offers a compelling case for reevaluating Meade’s legacy, making it essential reading for anyone interested in Civil War history or military leadership.

I enjoyed reading *Meade at Gettysburg*. I found it to be a well-researched and balanced account, providing a nuanced understanding of Meade’s contributions during one of the war’s most important battles. In addition, I came away with a fresh persepcitive on his leadership abilities which for too long have been criticized, ignored, or marginalized. Brown has given Geroge Meade the credit he is due.

The Clarion Call

The Clarion Call is published four times each year in PDF format and is available by email subscription and as a download from the Department website. To request a new email address be added to our subscription list, please contact the editor

Please remember that each issue of *The Clarion Call* can only be as good (or as informative) as the articles or information you provide. We need your Camp news!

Contact the editor at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com.

Lafayette Tour 200th anniversary event in Worcester

Camp 25 participated in the Lafayette Tour 200th Anniversary Event in Worcester at the request of Worcester's Veterans Agent, and the Mayor of Worcester (who specifically asked for participation from Camp 25 in uniform). The event was to honor the Marquis de Lafayette's speech made in Worcester in 1824.

Brother Dan Anderson of Camp 25 attended the reenactment of Lafayette giving a speech upon visiting Worcester on his tour. Given the time period (1824), the Civil War uniforms were out of their time. However, the uniforms brought folks over to ask questions, and gave Brother Dan a chance to speak about the SUVCW/SVR as well as the allied orders. The mayor and Dr Robinson were very appreciative. Brother Dan reports that he spoke quite a bit with members of The American Friends of Lafayette (especially Peter Reilly) as well as actors from Old Sturbridge Village.

Camp 25 News

Camp 25 received a letter from Brother Roy Henry formerly of Camp 18 and a long time SUVCW brother. Roy lives in Uxbridge and with the Historic Cemetery Committee of Uxbridge they placed 12 boxes of flags at 144 flags per box in Prospect Hill and St. Mary's Cemeteries for Memorial Day. Roy went on to place flags in smaller cemeteries around town and in squares and the town common. Roy recently celebrated his 82nd birthday. I think he shows how any brother can contribute by acting locally.

Camp Commander Matty Sargent recently got together with Commander Matt Ahern and the brothers of Camp 104 to aid them in restoring the Lakeside Cemetery GAR plot in Wakefield. Commander Sargent learned about how to straighten and reset gravestones and is excited to spread his knowledge. He recently worked with the approval of Marlborough's Public Works department to reset several stones in Marlborough and his report on that has elicited many grateful responses in Marlborough and surrounding towns from other veteran's service groups wanting to do the same for veterans of all eras. Plans are developing to create plans to aid any group in the correct way to reset gravestones.

Help Across State Lines

In July, I went on a search for the gravesite of my great-great-great grandfather, Henry E. Congdon. He had enlisted in November 1863 as a private in the 1st VT Battery, Light Artillery. He was transferred to the Second Battery in July 1864. Those batteries were engaged at Plain's Store LA, the Siege of Port Hudson LA, Pleasant Hill LA, Monette's Bluff LA, and Yellow Bayou LA. Private Congdon was discharged on July 31, 1865, and became a member of Roberts Post of the GAR in Rutland VT. Since I knew he had been a GAR member, I wanted to see if anyone had ever placed a GAR marker, or a veterans' plaque of any kind, or even an American flag at his gravesite.

No surviving members of my family knew anything about the grave location, or for that matter that we had a Civil War ancestor. Eventually the SUVCW Department of Vermont provided me with some documentation. The information included an obituary saying he died on 10/16/1908 and that he was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Rutland, VT. While I am somewhat familiar with Rutland, I had no idea where Calvary Cemetery was or how to find a specific gravesite within the cemetery.

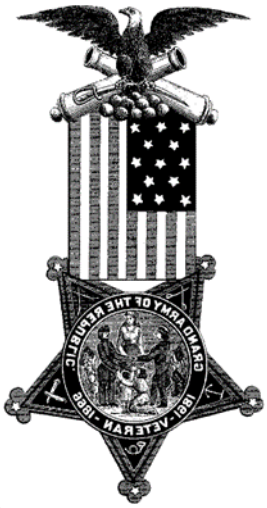
For assistance, I decided to reach out to Commander Daniel Celik of Ripley Camp #4, Department of Vermont in Rutland. Ripley Camp #4 replaced Roberts Post of the GAR in Rutland where my ancestor had been a member. This was on a Thursday morning. Commander Celik contacted his Camp Secretary, Thomas Griffin. Later that same morning Brother Griffin sent me an email asking for my ancestor's name which I provided.

By that Thursday afternoon, Brother Griffin not only located the grave but placed an American flag at the gravesite. As it turns out, Brother Griffin is also president of the VT Old Cemetery Association and promised to put my ancestor's gravesite on their cleaning schedule.

I immediately ordered a GAR marker from the National Quartermaster, and it arrived in time for a planned trip to Rutland in August. I got to place the GAR marker, to which I added the American flag that Brother Griffin graciously provided. My heartfelt thanks go out to Commander Celik and Brother Griffin of Ripley Camp #4 in Rutland Vermont. It is great to know that Brothers can reach out for help from other Brothers – even across state lines.

Ron Glidden
Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp #54

From The Department Patriotic Instructor



September 18-20 is the 161st anniversary of the **Battle of Chickamauga**. With 16,170 Union and 18,454 Confederate casualties, the Battle of Chickamauga was the second costliest battle of the Civil War, ranking only behind Gettysburg, and was by far the deadliest battle fought in the West.

Early on September 18, Gen. Bushrod Johnson approached Reed's Bridge with five infantry brigades, supported by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry. At 7:30 a.m., Forrest began to skirmish with Union Col. Robert Minty, who could see long lines of Confederate infantry headed his way. Receiving well-armed reinforcements from Col. John T. Wilder's Lightning Brigade, the Union troops resisted until noon, when, in one quick onrush, Minty was rapidly pushed across the bridge. He continued to delay Forrest's cavalry until 3:30, when the Confederates began to ford the river just downstream. The fighting began in earnest shortly after dawn. Throughout the day Bragg's men gain ground but cannot break the extended Union line despite a series of aggressive attacks. Confederate luck changes when, at 11:00 p.m., Gen. James Longstreet's divisions arrive at Chickamauga. The Confederates now outnumber the Federals. Bragg divides his forces into two wings. Longstreet commands the left; Lt. Gen. Leonidas K. Polk takes charge of Confederate troops on the right.

The battle resumes at 9:30 a.m., with coordinated Confederate attacks on the Union left flank. About an hour later, Rosecrans, believing a gap exists in his line, orders Brig. Gen. Thomas Wood's division to fill it. Wood, however, knows that the order is a mistake; no such gap exists in the Federal line, and moving his division would open a large swath in the Union position. However, Wood who had already been berated twice in the campaign for not promptly following orders, immediately moves, creating a division-wide hole in the Union line. This is the chance the Confederates need. Longstreet masses a striking force, led by Gen. Hood, of eight brigades divided into three lines. Longstreet's men hammer through the gap that Wood had created, and Union resistance at the southern end of the battlefield evaporates as Federal troops, including Rosecrans himself, are pushed off the field.

Major General George Thomas, in a move that would earn him the name "The Rock of Chickamauga," takes command and begins consolidating the scattered Union forces on Horseshoe Ridge and Snodgrass Hill. He and his men form a defensive position, and although Confederates continue to assault and press to within feet of the Union line, the Federals hold firm. Thomas withdraws as darkness falls.

Interesting facts:

20th President James Garfield was on Rosecrans staff. He would die of a wound from an assassin on the 18th anniversary of the battle.

Spencer rifles played a key role allowing the Lightning brigade to hold off the Confederate attack.

Chickamauga is the first National Military Park, opening in 1895.
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

George Maple, PDC
Department Patriotic Instructor

Testimonial Luncheon to Honor both CinC Kevin Martin and Auxiliary President Rosemary Martin

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and friends of the SUVCW and ASUVCW,

The Officers of the SUVCW and ASUVCW Department of the Chesapeake request the pleasure of the company of you and your guests at a luncheon to honor and support our Commander-in-Chief, Kevin L. Martin and National President Rosemary S. Martin.

We invite you to attend the event, which will be held at **Dutch's Daughter Restaurant, 581 Himes Road, Frederick, MD on Saturday, October 26, 2024**. The luncheon will commence at 1:00 o'clock with exceptional meal options including: ***Beef tips, Atlantic salmon, or Dutch's chicken, along with fresh vegetables, tossed garden salad, fresh baked rolls, chef's choice of dessert, coffee, tea and sodas.***

After dining, guests will be invited to share personal expressions of encouragement and inspiration for our CinC and National President. The duties of the Commander-in-Chief and National President are far-reaching and involve traveling many thousands of miles to represent and promote our beloved Order; therefore, as they move forward in their administrations, please join us in celebrating their commitment and stalwart leadership. We look forward to seeing you!

Cost: $60.00 per person / $110.00 per couple. Please send checks payable to The Department of the Chesapeake no later than October 12, 2024 to:

Charles H. Bogino
3520 Fiske Terr
Silver Spring, MD 20906

SONS OF UNION VETERANS

Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Camp No.54

You are cordially invited to the unveiling and dedication of the preserved and remounted cannon of the

General Charles Russell Lowell
GAR Cemetery Plot

Mt Hope Cemetery
355 Walk Hill St, Boston, MA 02131

18 October 2024
11:00 A.M.

Department Officers 2024-2025

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